



October 2018

Monthly Newsletter

Vol 1 Issue 4

Upcoming Events



SP-ACE MEETINGS

10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30
6:30 PM-9:00 PM
For youth in the 8th grade to 20 years old

FIRST SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

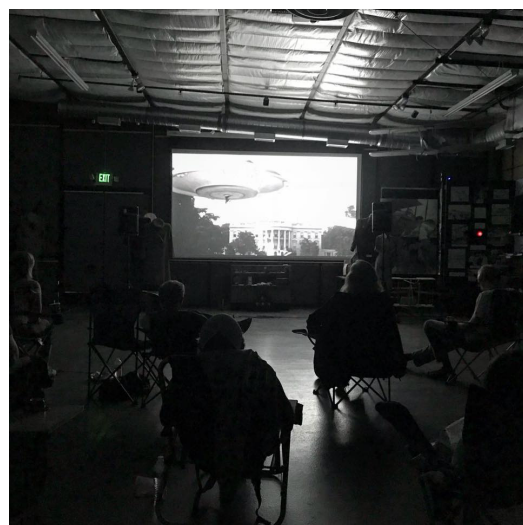
Winter Boutique
The Topa Topa Flywheelers
Free airplane rides for kids 8-18
9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

VISIT US

800 E Santa Maria Street #E
Santa Paula, CA 93060
805-525-1109

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

The Aviation Museum of Santa Paula hosted a free movie night on September 22nd. This was a free event open to the public. We showed the classic black and white movie, "Earth VS The Flying Saucers". Before the movie began, patrons were invited to partake in the potluck. There was a BBQ available for anyone that wanted to grill their own meat as well as lots of salads, sides and sweets. People sat in the Museum hangar while the movie was projected on the large screen. There was a lot of laughter at the movie as well as noticing how far special effects have come in the last 62 years. Be sure to get on our mailing list and follow us on social media so you can join us at our next event!



Stay in touch and keep up-to date with all our latest news, events and fun aviation information.



Instagram: @aviation_museum_sp
Facebook: @aviationmuseumofsantapaula/

DO YOU REMEMBER THE GUILLOW'S Balsa Wood AIRPLANES YOU FLEW AS A CHILD?

WE'VE GOT'EM IN OUR AVIATION MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Guillow's balsa wood airplanes are celebrating over 90 years of flight! Founded as Nu Craft Toys in 1926 by WWI U.S. Naval Aviator, Paul K. Guillow who started by creating and marketing small balsa wood shelf model kits of famous WWI combat aircraft. There were 12 different models with 6" wing spans that sold for ten cents. Each kit contained a 3-view plan, balsa wood cement, 2 bottles of colored airplane dope, a strip of bamboo for wing and landing gear struts.

After the 1927 flight across the Atlantic by Lindbergh, the interest in all things aviation related soared and Guillow found his model airplane kits in great demand, causing the company to move from the barn at the Guillow home to the second floor of a service station in downtown Wakefield MA. Due to the need for more space another move was necessary in 1933, the company has been at this location, 40 New Salem Street, Wakefield, MA, ever since.

In 1933 the name of the company was changed to Paul K. Guillow and the business sold its first shelf model kits to a national chain. The company was besieged with orders catapulting Paul into his role as a major player in the balsa model industry.

During the Second World War most of the balsa wood was being diverted for military use in the production of rafts and life jackets making it nearly impossible to acquire. This did not deter Paul from supplying his customers with model kits. Anxious to build the new WWII aircraft Hellcats, Avengers, Mitchells, Mustangs, Messerschmitts, Stearmans, Corsairs and Lightnings, model builders were forced to switch to paper cardboard and pine although not always successfully. Guillow also served the war effort by supplying the armed forces with a number of drone aircraft to help U.S. gunners sharpen their skills.

Post war prosperity and the new plastic models caused a decline in the "stick and tissue" business. With plummeting sales in the kit business Guillow's concentrated on producing inexpensive hand launched and rubber powered gliders. In the 1950's, however, a resurgence in the demand for "stick and tissue" kits brought new prosperity to Guillow's. Sadly Paul died in 1951 but his wife, Gertrude took over the business, incorporated it and with the help of family and others in the company they continued on. In 1953 the "Jetfire" glider was introduced as the first glider to be mass-produced and packaged on a high speed packaging machine.

As America's war veterans had children of their own, the baby boomers started to become model airplane builders. As the 60's approached, Guillow's furthered their marketing by introducing many different counter and floor stand displays, using their vast assortment of hand launched and rubber powered toy planes.

Mrs. Gertrude Guillow retired as President in 1980 and persons were promoted up the ranks. Paul K. Guillow's dream still lives on in the company today as we continue to strive to keep young and old happily building and flying toy and hobby airplanes models. For the past 90 plus years nearly every American boy, girl and young at heart have enjoyed the inexpensive balsa wood gliders of the Paul K. Guillow Company. Sunny afternoons flying Guillow gliders have created fond memories and helped imaginations soar.

Make memories! Guillows balsa wood Starfire Glider and Jetfire Glider are sold in our Gift shop for \$2.25 each. Fly 'em today!



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Reno Air Race Recap

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Are you a member of the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula?